

April 24, 2016
(Series: Finding New Life in Christ)
#4 – “Staying Close To Christ”
(John 13: 31-35)

Our lesson from John’s Gospel is directed at the _____.

Jesus calls us to _____ him. The path may be treacherous, but, if we stay _____ to him, one day we will share in his glory.

Jesus addresses his disciples as “*My little children...*” This is a term of love which Jesus expresses his _____ for them.

Some things to note about this new teaching by Christ about love:

1.- The command to _____, in itself, was not a new commandment.

We were never designed to live _____ from other people.

“There have been a lot of coaches with good ball clubs who know the fundamentals and have plenty of discipline but still don’t win the game...If you’re going to play together as a team, you’ve got to care for one another. You’ve got to love each other....When the players are endowed with that special feeling, you know you’ve got yourself a winning team.” - Vince Lombardi

2.- We are not simply to love other people as we love ourselves. We are to love them as _____ loves us.

The _____ for love is moved from ourselves to _____!

Christian love, like Christ’s love is unconditional and _____.

This is indeed, a new kind of love. It is a love that is usually only manifested by those who have given their lives _____ to Jesus!

(over)

3.- The first place this love should be made manifest is within the _____ of believers.

This is how the world will know that we _____ Christ – because we _____ one another!

Ken Medema –

*“If this is not the place where tears are understood, where can I go to cry?
If this is not the place where my spirit can take wing, where do I go to fly?
If this is not the place where my questions can be asked, where do I go to seek?*

If this is not the place where my feelings can be heard, where do I go to speak?

If this is not the place where you accept me just as I am, where do I go to be free?

If this is not the place where I can try and grow and love, where do I go to be just me?”

The church is intended to be a _____ place where we can be ourselves without the fear of _____.

Loving one another as Christ has loved us is not _____. Christ does not expect us to do that which is easy but that which is _____!

I’m certain what Jesus was saying is: Stay _____ to him and _____ in his footsteps!

And he was saying one thing in particular: The one place we simply can’t have an enemy is within the _____!

If we do, we are to do everything within our power to make that enemy a _____!

We are to love others as Christ loved us, he who was willing to lay down his life on our behalf!

John 13: 34-35 – “A new command I give you, said Jesus, ‘Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’”